

# Lesson 29

## Words To Learn This Week

toil  
blunder  
daze  
mourn  
subside  
maim  
comprehend  
commend  
final  
exempt  
vain  
repetition

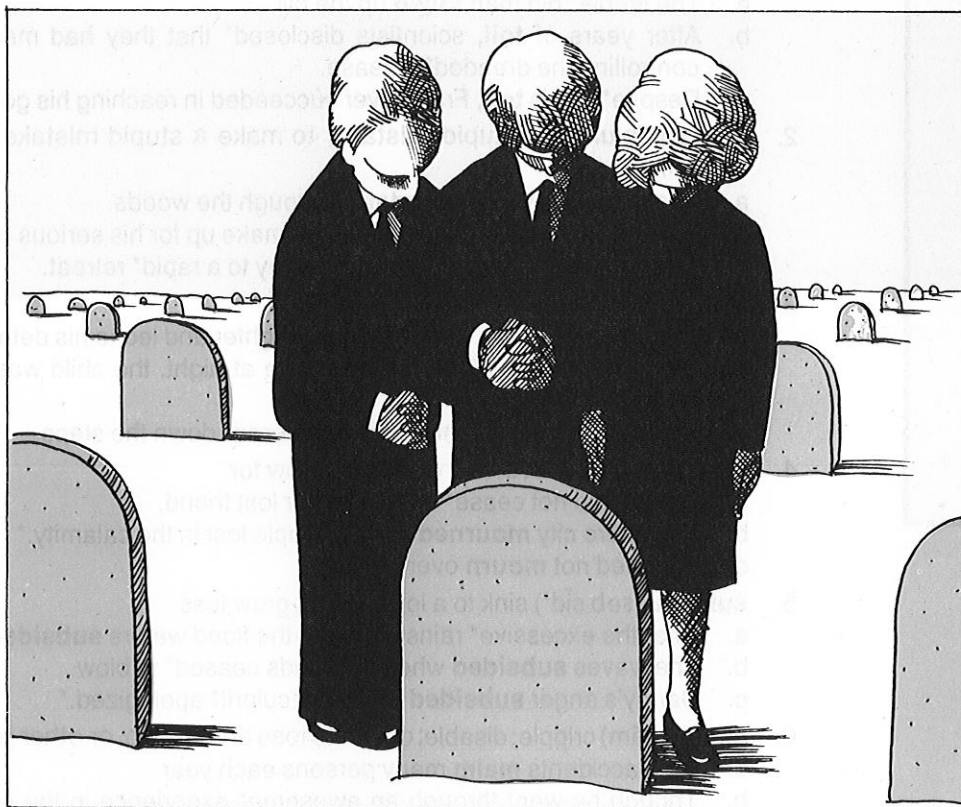
"These words are razors to my wounded heart."

—Shakespeare, *Titus Andronicus*

1. **toil** (toil) hard work; to work hard; move with difficulty
  - a. The feeble\* old man **toiled** up the hill.
  - b. After years of **toil**, scientists disclosed\* that they had made progress in controlling the dreaded\* disease.
  - c. Despite\* all his **toil**, Fred never succeeded in reaching his goal.
2. **blunder** (blun' dər) stupid mistake; to make a stupid mistake; stumble; say clumsily
  - a. The exhausted\* boy **blundered** through the woods.
  - b. Bert's awkward\* apology\* could not make up for his serious **blunder**.
  - c. The general's **blunder** forced his army to a rapid\* retreat.
3. **daze** (dāz) confuse
  - a. The severity\* of the blow **dazed** the fighter and led to his defeat.
  - b. When he ventured\* out of the house at night, the child was **dazed** by the noise and the lights.
  - c. **Dazed** by the flashlight, Maria blundered\* down the steps.
4. **mourn** (môrn) grieve; feel or show sorrow for
  - a. Sandra did not cease\* to **mourn** her lost friend.
  - b. The entire city **mourned** for the people lost in the calamity.\*
  - c. We need not **mourn** over trifles.\*
5. **subside** (səb sīd') sink to a lower level; grow less
  - a. After the excessive\* rains stopped, the flood waters **subsided**.
  - b. The waves **subsided** when the winds ceased\* to blow.
  - c. Danny's anger **subsided** when the culprit\* apologized.\*
6. **maim** (mām) cripple; disable; cause to lose an arm, leg, or other part of the body
  - a. Auto accidents **maim** many persons each year.
  - b. Though he went through an awesome\* experience in the crash, Fred was not seriously **maimed**.
  - c. Car manufacturers insist\* that seat belts can prevent the **maiming** of passengers in the event of a crash.
7. **comprehend** (kām' pri hend') understand
  - a. If you can use a word correctly, there is a good chance that you **comprehend** it.
  - b. You need not be a pauper\* to **comprehend** fully what hunger is.
  - c. My parents say that they cannot **comprehend** today's music.
8. **commend** (kə mend') praise; hand over for safekeeping
  - a. Everyone **commended** the mayor's thrifty\* suggestion.
  - b. Florence **commended** the baby to her aunt's care.
  - c. The truth is that we all like to be **commended** for good work.
9. **final** (fī' nal) coming last; deciding
  - a. The **final** week of the term is rapidly\* approaching.
  - b. Jose was commended\* for his improvement in the **final** test.
  - c. The **final** censor\* of our actions is our own conscience.
10. **exempt** (eg zempt') make free from; freed from
  - a. Our school **exempts** bright pupils from final\* exams.
  - b. School property is **exempt** from most taxes.
  - c. Juvenile\* offenders are not **exempt** from punishment.
11. **vain** (vān) having too much pride in one's ability, looks, etc.; of no use
  - a. Josephine is quite **vain** about her beauty.
  - b. To be perfectly frank, I do not see what she has to be **vain** about.

- c. Brian made numerous\* **vain** attempts to reach the doctor by telephone.
12. **repetition** (rep' ə tish' ən) act of doing or saying again
- a. The **repetition** of new words in this book will help you to learn them.
- b. Any **repetition** of such unruly\* behavior will be punished.
- c. After a **repetition** of his costly mistake, Jerry was fired from his job.

Which of the words studied in this lesson is suggested by the picture?



Read the following passage to see how the new words are used in it.

### Camp Safety

For years a furniture salesman from Connecticut, Mitch Kurman, has **toiled** ceaselessly\* for the passage of a youth summer camp safety bill. Why? Because his son David was drowned when his canoe overturned in the raging\* waters of the Penobscot River. The camp counselors leading the trip were inexperienced, had **blundered** into dangerous waters, and had no life jackets for the canoers.

Mr. Kurman was naturally **dazed** by the tragedy.\* But rather than merely **mourn** his loss and wait for the painful memory to **subside**, he began a campaign that took him on hundreds of journeys to speak to governors, senators, and congressmen. He had learned that 250,000 children are injured or **maimed** annually\* in camp accidents. It

was hard for him to **comprehend** why we have laws that outlaw\* mistreatment of alligators, coyotes, birds and bobcats, but we have no law to prevent disasters\* to children in summer camps.

Wherever he went, Mr. Kurman was **commended** for his efforts, but he received only trifling\* support from the lawmakers. One bill, requiring people to put on life preservers when they took to the water, died in the **final** reading. Another such bill **exempted** private ponds and lakes, exactly the waters where most summer camps are located.\* Even a bill calling for a survey of camp safety conditions was at first defeated. Mr. Kurman's struggle so far has been in **vain**, but he continues his battle to avoid\* a **repetition** of the accident that took his son's life.